

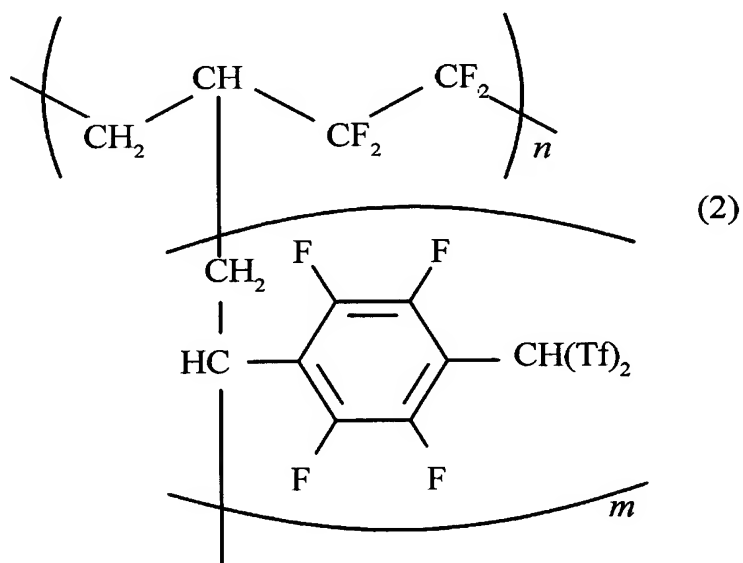
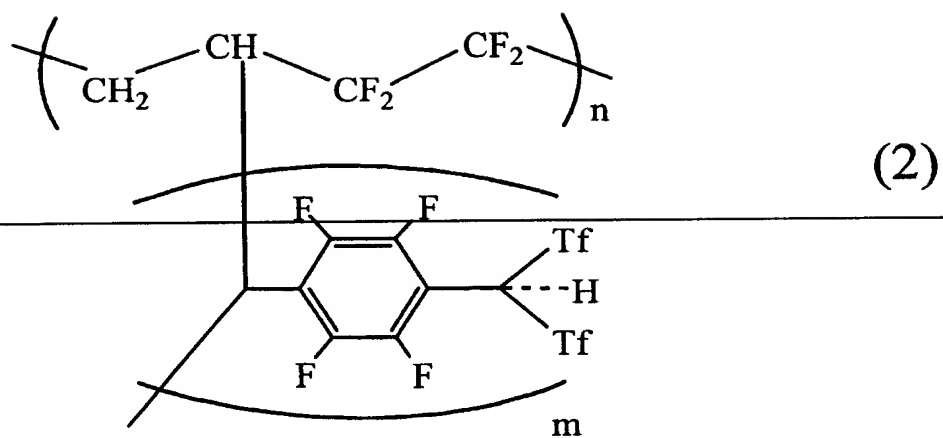
**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In consideration of the application of the polymer electrolyte fuel cells to electric automobiles, it is desired that the operation temperature of a fuel cell system be not less than 100 °C for downsizing the cooling system and improving the CO tolerance and the efficiency of the ~~electrodecatalyst~~ electrode catalyst. At such high temperatures, the vapor pressure of water increases, so that if the internal pressure of the batteries is to exist at a realistic level, the relative humidity of ambient atmosphere declines, making it necessary for the electrolyte membrane to have a sufficient proton conductivity in a low humidity environment.

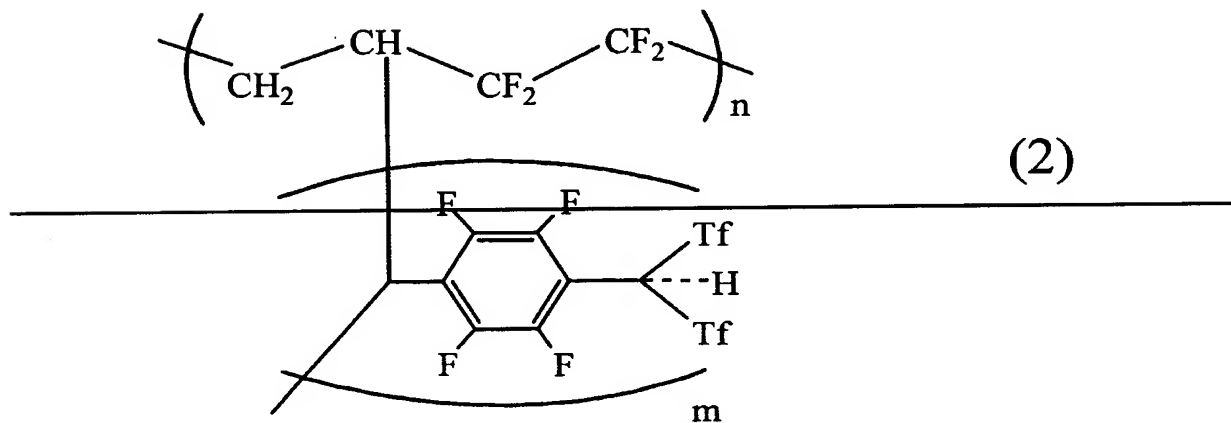
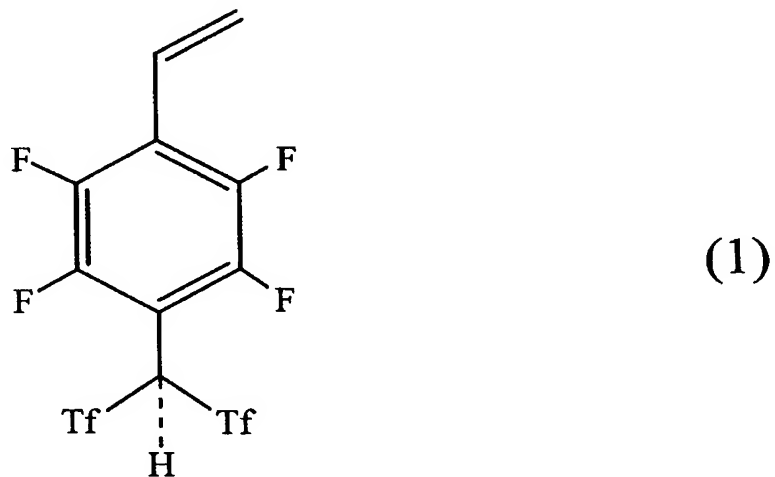
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

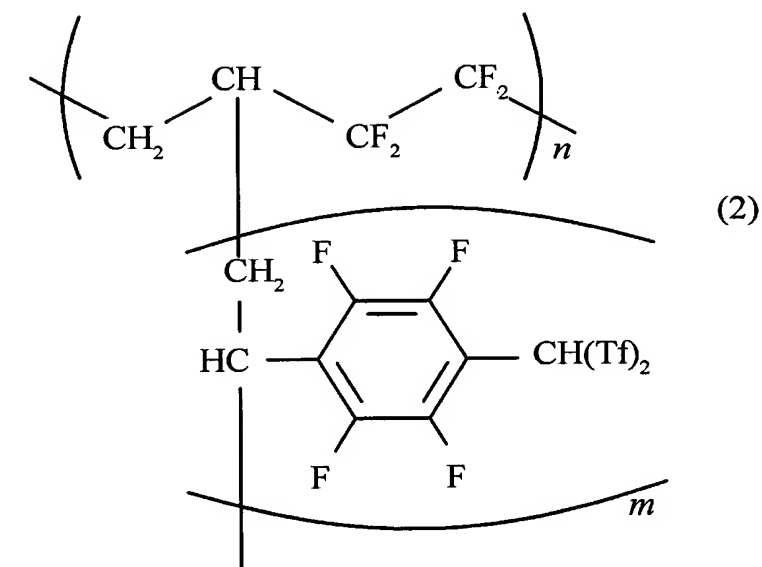
In a second aspect, the present invention is an invention of a graft copolymer compound comprising a super strong-acidic group, in which the monomer compound represented by the aforementioned general formula (1) is graft-copolymerized to the main chain of a fluorine-containing hydrocarbon polymer. The main chain of a fluorine-containing hydrocarbon polymer is preferably an ethylene-tetrafluoroethylene copolymer, for example. The graft copolymer compound is represented by the following general formula (2). Tf indicates a trifluoromethane sulfonyl group ( $-\text{SO}_2\text{CF}_3$ ).



Please replace the Abstract with the attached substitute Abstract. A marked-up version of the Abstract is shown below for the convenience of the Patent Office.

A novel polymer electrolyte is provided that enables a solid polymer electrolyte used in fuel cells, for example, to have sufficient proton conductivity even in a low-water-content state or a zero-water-content state by using a monomer compound represented by the general formula (1), and a graft copolymer compound in which the monomer compound represented by the general formula (1) is graft-copolymerized to the main chain of a fluorine-containing hydrocarbon polymer.





Tf indicates a trifluoromethane sulfonyl group ( $-\text{SO}_2\text{CF}_3$ ).